

ALL-AREA BOYS BOWLING TEAM

BOWLER OF THE YEAR **DAKOTA DANIELS**



ALEX BOERNER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Martin County High School's Dakota Daniels is the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspaper 2011 Boys Bowler of the Year.

# Aiming for perfection

Martin County’s Dakota Daniels made instant impact on team that helped propel Tigers to championship

By Jon Santucci  
Special to Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

STUART – Dakota Daniels was nervous before the first day of tryouts for Martin County’s bowling team.

Even though he helped South Fork reach the state tournament last year, Daniels wasn’t sure how he would perform on a team with a handful of talented bowlers.

“Coming in, I didn’t have any idea what to expect,” Daniels said. “I was extremely nervous, and then I bowled a 300 in my first game.

“It was amazing because, coming in, I had no idea how I was going to bowl. Six or seven strikes through, I thought about it. I always aim for perfection, and to actually do it was great.

“Coming into this team with four or five really good bowlers and being able to compete and be a valuable asset to the team, it was a big relief.”

While he didn’t stay perfect, Daniels had an outstanding season and is the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers All-Area Boys Bowler of the Year.

The junior averaged 218.64 pins in 33 regular season games, finished second in District 12 and was seventh in the individual bracket

### Bowler of the Year

#### Dakota Daniels

**Martin County Junior**  
**Stats:** Daniels helped lead Martin County’s boys to the state championship. He averaged 218.64 pins in 33 regular season games, finished second in District 12 and was seventh in the individual bracket at the state tournament.  
**Coach T.J. Baral:** “At state, his mental level was in another stratosphere. He bowled at another level, which is very good to see. I knew he was good. The only thing I was nervous about was how he would translate into the team, and he had no problem. He went from being about himself to being 100 percent about Martin County.”

the Tigers to the state championship.

“He changed a lot with his game — not physically, but his mental game — and that helped him out,” Martin County coach T.J. Baral said.

“He went from being a normal individual bowler to being part of a team, and that’s when he really excelled.

“It’s a lot different when you’re not bowl-

ing for yourself. Here, we have 10 other people. Whatever we do is for the best of the team and, as soon as he got that, that’s when he started cranking it up.”

Daniels always had been a talented bowler. He actually stopped playing the game for five years because it stopped being fun. He demanded perfection of himself and said, even as a 10-year-old, it felt like a job.

When he was asked to bowl at South Fork last year, Daniels felt it was time to come back.

“It’s a lot different for me now,” Daniels said. “Most of it comes with age. I changed majorly from last year to this year. Last year, I only had a month or two before states to get better.

“It took me some time and I had to work hard to get to the level I want to be at. The major difference is that I’m able to handle the pressure better.”

That includes the pressure of the postseason. After bowling at the state tournament last year, Daniels found himself much more relaxed and focused this time around.

“It was much easier,” he said. “When it came down to the final match, I was much more relaxed. I knew the team was extremely solid and I was confident in myself and what I was doing.”

“Coming into this team with four or five really good bowlers and being able to compete and be a valuable asset to the team, it was a big relief.”

Dakota Daniels, Bowler of the Year

### Coach of the Year

#### T.J. Baral

**School:** Martin County  
**Years with team:** First season  
**This season:** After being upset in the district tournament last year, Martin County won the District 12 tournament and went on to win the FHSAA state tournament  
**Quotable:** “One word: Amazing. There’s not much else you can say. We had some ups and downs, but we all came together in the end. We kind of structured it to get better and better as the year went on. “This was my first year with the team. It was different coaching,



because you don’t have as much control. At least when you throw the ball, you can dictate instead of telling someone else what to do and hope for the best. But it was fun.”

### Honorable Mention

**ANTHONY CAVANAUGH**  
Fort Pierce Central junior

**PETER DEROSA**  
John Carroll senior

**ANTHONY FUSCO**  
Port St. Lucie senior

**NATE GARCIA**  
John Carroll junior

**ROBERT HICKS**  
South Fork senior

**MARK HILTON**  
Treasure Coast junior

**MATHIS LAIRD**  
South Fork senior

**RYAN LANE**  
Martin County sophomore

**ANTHONY TORNATORE**  
Fort Pierce Central junior

### All-Area First Team



Jordan Abel



John Gallagher



Eric Gauroniak



Chris Reid



Jeremy Scott



Andrew Sesta



James Steiert

**JORDAN ABEL**  
**Lincoln Park junior**  
**Stats:** Averaged 204 pins per game during the regular season

**JOHN GALLAGHER**  
**Martin County sophomore**  
**Stats:** Averaged 216 pins per game during the regular season, finished sixth in the individual bracket at the state tournament

**ERIC GAURONIAK**  
**Martin County junior**  
**Stats:** Captain of Martin County’s state championship team, averaged 215.42 pins per game in the regular season

**CHRIS REID**  
**St. Lucie West Centennial senior**  
**Stats:** Averaged 195 pins per game in the regular season, won the District 12 tournament, qualified for state tournament

**JEREMY SCOTT**  
**Lincoln Park senior**  
**Stats:** Averaged 222 pins per game during the regular season

**ANDREW SESTA**  
**Jensen Beach senior**  
**Stats:** Averaged 214 pins per game in the regular season

**JAMES STEIERT**  
**Martin County junior**  
**Stats:** Averaged 212.45 pins per game during the regular season

### The Team

The 2011 Boys Bowling team was compiled by Jon Santucci.



See previous all-area teams on prepzone. TCPalm.com

### All-Area Schedule

FRIDAY  
Girls Golf

SATURDAY  
Boys Golf

SUNDAY  
Girls Swimming & Diving

MONDAY  
Boys Swimming & Diving

TUESDAY  
Girls Cross Country

WEDNESDAY  
Boys Cross Country

THURSDAY  
Girls Bowling

FRIDAY  
Boys Bowling

SATURDAY  
Volleyball

MONDAY  
Football